

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a print of a digital image registered by a registrant in response to an order from a viewer comprising:
 - a first step of receiving the digital image from the registrant;
 - a second step of registering the received digital image;
 - a third step of showing the registered digital image to the viewer;
 - a fourth step of accepting the order for the print of the digital image from the viewer;
 - a fifth step of producing the ordered print of the digital image; and
 - a sixth step of billing the print charge to the registrant even when the viewer which placed the order in the fourth step is a different entity than the registrant.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein:
 - ~~wherein~~ the first step includes a step of receiving a digital image with having a discrimination denoting that the print charge of the digital image is to be paid by the registrant;
 - ~~wherein~~ the second step includes a step of recording the digital image with having the discrimination together with the discrimination; and
 - ~~wherein~~ the sixth step includes a step of billing the print charge of the print of the digital image with having the discrimination to the registrant.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the third step includes a step of permitting only a viewer with a predetermined identification to view the image with having the discrimination.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fourth step includes a step of allowing only a viewer with a predetermined identification to order the print of the digital image with having the discrimination.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first step is carried out through a computer communication with the registrant.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the third and the fourth steps are carried out through a computer communication with the viewer.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of setting a limit to the order from the viewer, wherein the fourth step includes a step for of accepting the order leading to the sixth step only when the order is within the limit.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the limit is a sum of print charge.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the limit is the number of times of the orders.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the limit is the number of ordered prints.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of billing the print charge exceeding the limit to the viewer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of making it possible to accept a print order whose print charge is paid by the viewer and a step of billing the print charge to the viewer.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising a step of adding the number of prints of a digital image on the viewer's account to that the number of the same digital image on the register's registrant's account, wherein the fifth step produces the sum of the number of the ~~of~~ prints on of such a digital image.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of setting a time limit to the fourth step, whereby the fourth step accepts the order leading to the sixth step only when the order is made within the time limit.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of orders are acceptable for a period, and wherein the fifth step produces the prints by summing up the orders within the period with respect to each digital image.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of accepting an order for purchasing a product of digital contents relating to the digital image and a step of selling the product by copying the digital contents on a recording medium of the viewer.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of providing prints of a digital image registered by a registrant in response to orders from a plurality of different viewers comprising:

a first step of receiving the digital image from the registrant;

a second step of registering the received digital image;

a third step of showing the registered digital image to the plurality of different

viewers;

a fourth step of accepting the orders for the print of the digital image from the plurality of different viewers;

a fifth step of summing up the orders from the plurality of different viewers accepted within the a predetermined period; and

a sixth step of producing the prints based on the fifth step.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein at last least the fourth to the sixth steps are repeated.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising a step of setting a time limit to the fourth step, whereby the fourth step accepts the order leading to the sixth step only when the order is made within the time limit.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the third step includes a step ~~for~~ of permitting only a viewer with a predetermined identification to view the registered digital image.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising a step of billing a print charge to the registrant based on the fifth step.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a print of a digital image comprising:

an image input that receives a digital image from an image registrant;

a memory that records the received digital image;

an image output that outputs the digital image in order to ~~make allow~~ allow a viewer to view the recorded digital image;

a print order acceptor that accepts an order for a print of the viewed digital image from the viewer;

an image data output that outputs an image data of the ordered digital image to a printer; and

a billing data output that outputs a data for billing the print charge to the registrant even when the viewer which placed the order is a different entity than the registrant.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a print of an image registered by a registrant in relation to a product of digital contents to be sold by the registrant and purchased by a purchaser, comprising:

a first step of receiving information of the image in relation to a product of digital contents from the registrant through a computer communication;

a second step of producing the print of the image based on the information of the image in relation to the product of digital contents that has been purchased by a purchaser;

and

a third step of billing a print charge associated with the second step to the registrant, wherein the purchaser is a different entity than the registrant.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the information of the image is a kind of information including an image data of a digital image.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the information of the image includes information that specifies the image.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the specified image is an image recorded on a film.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the specified image is a digital image.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, further comprising a step of obtaining the image data of the specified digital image from outside.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising a step of receiving information regarding the kind of the recording medium on which the digital contents purchased by the ~~contents~~ product purchaser are recorded.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, further comprising a step of selecting a paper for the print and contents of the print other than the image based on the information regarding the kind of the recording medium, and a step of printing the contents of the print other than the image in a predetermined area of the paper.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising a step of receiving information to deliver the print to the purchaser.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a print of an image registered by a registrant in relation to a product of digital contents to be sold by the registrant and purchased by a purchaser comprising:

a first step of accepting a contact from the purchaser with having an authorization by of the registrant, the authorization obtained through purchase by the purchaser of a product of digital contents from the registrant;

a second step of producing the print of the image in relation to the product of digital contents based on the authorization; and

a third step of billing the print charge to the registrant, wherein the purchaser is a different entity than the registrant.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the authorization includes information regarding the image.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the authorization includes a password for request to produce the print.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the first step includes a step of accepting the contact from the purchaser though a personal computer of the purchaser.

36. (Currently Amended) An apparatus providing a print of an image registered by a registrant in relation to a product of digital contents to be sold by the registrant and purchased by a purchaser comprising:

an image information input that receives information of an image connected associated with the digital contents that has been purchased by a purchaser; and

a billing data output that outputs a data for billing the print charge for printing the image to the registrant, wherein the purchaser is a different entity than the registrant.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a print of an image registered by a registrant in relation to a product of digital contents to be sold by the registrant and purchased by a purchaser comprising:

a first step of selling the product of digital contents to a purchaser; and

a second step of outputting information relating to the image in relation to the product of digital contents sold to the purchaser through a computer communication for the purpose of producing the print of the image.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein the first step includes a step of copying the digital contents on a recording medium of the purchaser.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, further comprising a step of making the purchaser select one of a plurality of images relating to the digital contents.

40. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein the information includes an image data of the digital image.

41. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein the information includes information that specifies the image.

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, further comprising a step of ~~getting~~ obtaining information necessary for delivering the print to the purchaser; and

a step of outputting information for the delivery through a computer communication.

43. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a print of an image registered by a registrant in relation to a product of digital contents to be sold by the registrant and purchased by a purchaser comprising:

a contents seller that sells the product of digital contents to a purchaser;

a delivery information input for inputting an information for ~~deliver~~ delivery
of the print of the image for the purchaser; and

an information output that outputs (i) an information of the image relating to
the product of digital contents that was sold to the purchaser and (ii) the information for
deliver delivery of the print.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a purchaser of a product of the
digital contents with a print of an image registered by a registrant relating to the product of
digital contents, ~~to~~ comprising:

a first step of having the registrant sell the product of digital contents to the
purchaser;

a second step of having a printer receive information relating to the registered
image relating to the product of digital contents that was sold to the purchaser from the
registrant;

a third step of having the printer produce the print of the image for the
purchaser based on the information; and

a fourth step of having the printer bill the print charge to the registrant,
wherein the purchaser is a different entity than the registrant.

45. (Original) The method according to claim 44, wherein the second step is
carried out through a computer communication with the registrant.

46. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 44, further comprising a
step of having the registrant issue an identification of the image to the purchaser, and a step of
having the printer receive the identification from the purchaser.

47. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 44, further comprising a
step of having the registrant issue a password to the purchaser, and wherein the third step is
only effective when the password is input to the printer.